

1 John 4: 7 - 21

Knowing God Through Love (cf. [John 3:16](#))

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

In a book I am reading currently I came across the story of the woman who was caught in adultery and was brought to Jesus in order to trap Him (John 8:3-11)

Jesus Himself mentions some of the 10 Commandments to a young ruler when he asked Him what he needed to do in order to enter Heaven. What is interesting is that Jesus speaks of the commandments here which are in regard to man's relation with mankind.

Matt 19:18-19

¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "*You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,'*
¹⁹ *'Honor your father and your mother,'* and, *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

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I personally believe the young ruler truly had a heart for God in replying the way he did as we read further along in Matthew. But He needed to know God wishes to reside within each person so that they may enter Heaven. This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. As the expression goes and is so true, God wishes to love us from the inside out. The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter for a very good reason. The young man needed to follow Jesus before all other things in his life including all the good things he was capable of doing.

This is how we come to know Jesus too. We accept Christ and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

He lifts us up as we

1. humble ourselves before Him and
2. confess we are sinners, understand we need to
3. repent from sins, and
4. accept Him as our God and Savior. www.Jesus-abc.com/php/heaven.php

What is so terrible about those who tried to entrap Jesus was that they had very little concern for the Law since we see there had to be a male partner involved in the adulterous affair. They had only brought the women. Also, as Mark Jones points out in his book, the Jews¹ were under Roman jurisdiction and could not condemn someone to death without involving the Roman government.

It would seem they wanted to see Jesus condemn the women to death and break the Roman laws - have Him 'framed,' as the expression of our day goes. Or they wanted Jesus to disobey Moses' Law. They could not care for the life of this woman any less, nor did they care for removing sin from Israel since they were probably some of the biggest sinners of their day.

God's Law was to bring justice, both economical/social and spiritual justice to humanity, and of course, the Messiah. But not being able to see due to our own dilemmas, we mistreat one another without realizing we are not in accord with what God actually wants. We see and know Him by His grace and foreknowledge as He is omniscience. When we truly want Him, He reveals Himself to us. Even the immoral can repent and be saved.

This is human nature as we see it played out even in our modern day societies. What is terrible is that their eyes were completely closed to their own sin as they were in the process of entrapping Jesus.

I believe it is easy for us Christians to say we love God and it would seem easier to love God than those around us including our neighbor, parents, brothers and sisters at times, but as we know from God Himself, we are to show our love toward God by being good to one another here on earth.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Propitiation is God being appeased with us do to the sacrifice. In this case, God's one and only Son Jesus dying for all mankind on the cross. In the Old Testament, this was done by the high priest as he carried the blood of the sacrifice that was to be offered for all the people of the nation behind the veil which separated mankind from God the Father.

God never fails us. In this world we will have tribulations and suffering as Jesus tells us, but we know He has overcome this world. We see Jesus live out the Law perfectly and die so that He may dwell within us. This is Love that goes beyond our understanding. This is God. We see Him in Jesus' whole personage because Jesus is God – the second person of the Trinity.

Jesus' work on the Cross goes far beyond propitiation. We are now friends with God and have Jesus' righteousness is imputed unto us. This is far beyond what was possible in the Old Testament times till the Messiah Died, but 'not for Himself' as the Prophecy states in Daniel.

Dan 9:26

²⁶"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
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1 John 4: 7-21 (continued)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Seeing God Through Love

¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

We know we are the children of God, 'born again.' Since we are all originally children of Adam who fell, we must be born again as Jesus tells us in [John chapter 3](#). His Holy Spirit living within us is our rebirth and guarantee – even if we fail – that God will accept us. This is what allows us to enter Heaven.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4: 7-21 (continued)

The Consummation of Love

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

There will be a Day of Judgment. God deals with each one of us so that we can accept the finished work of the Cross and repent. Eventually, God will take the earth back from its fallen state and even the natural world will be restored and made new. The Judgment here is called "The Day of the Lord," "That day," "The Time of Jacob's Trouble," and the "Tribulation Period," throughout the Bible. But each person must come with the grips that God will require of each person the things they did here on earth. God is love and he must not neglect truth and justice.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love Him^{*} because He first loved us.

Obedience by Faith

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can^{*} he love God whom he has not seen?

²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

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Matt 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying,

³⁶ "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*"^{*}

³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹ *And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*^{*}

⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

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FOOTNOTES:

¹: I wanted to make a note here regarding the use of the word 'Jew.' It is important to realize that the Bible and Bible speakers do not and should not defame the Jewish people. That is not the intent of the New Testament. It was written by Jews except for Dr. Luke's account of the Gospel and Acts. There is no intention of degrading any particular group. This is understood and I want to make it clear because subtle expressions can lead to disaster when misunderstood or expressed inappropriately. It would be contradictory to instigate prejudice and hate using the New Testament or Old Testament for that matter.